

REMARKS

Claims 8, 9 and 12-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 9 and 12-14 are amended. Claims 15 and 16 are added. The amendments and added claims introduce no new matter. Claims 1-7 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A Final Rejection was mailed on April 2, 2008 that indicated that all of pending claims 1-3, 5-9 and 11-14 were rejected. Applicant filed an Amendment After Final Rejection (AAFR) on June 24, 2008. The June 24 AAFR canceled claim 11, other amended several of the pending claims, and argued that the claims were allowable over the asserted combination of applied references. Arguments were specifically directed to the allowability of independent claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom. An Advisory Action was mailed on July 2, 2008 that maintained the rejections of the previous Office Action, but indicated that, for the purposes of appeal, the proposed amendments to the claims would be entered. The above-described amendments further amended the pending claims as amended in the June 24 AAFR.

In response to the July 2 Advisory Action, Applicant timely filed a Notice of Appeal and Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review ("Request for Review") on August 1, 2008. A Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review was mailed on August 26, 2008 which indicated that the application remained under appeal. This Amendment further responds to the April 2, 2008 Final Rejection in view of the intervening prosecution of this application.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Fischer in the October 28, 2008 telephone interview. Applicant's separate record of the

substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks. Specifically, Applicant understands that presenting new arguments regarding the specific allowability of claim 8 in this response will avoid a Final Rejection in the next Office Action.

The Office Action, in paragraph 4, rejects claims 1-3, 5-9 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP-A-2000-071722 to Ogawa (the English-language equivalent to which reference will be made in this response is U.S. Patent No. 6,929,045) and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0230021 to Cottrell and U.S. Patent No. 6,079,467 to Ueyoko. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 8 recites, among other features, that the carcass comprises at least one turn-up cord layer folded around the bead core from an inner side to an outer side in the tire's width direction; a folded end of the turn-up cord layer substantially consists of a plurality of the circumferential cord portions; and as viewed in a section in the tire's width direction under a condition where the tire is assembled to a standard rim to form a tire/wheel assembly and then a maximum load is applied to the tire with no inner pressure applied thereto, the folded end of the turn-up layer is laid, in the tire's radial direction, outside of a line segment QB which connects an outermost point Q of a rim guard in the tire's width direction and an intersection B of the inner surface of the tire and a line extending outwardly in the tire's radial direction from the outermost point Q at an angle of 60 degrees in relation to a line parallel to the rim radial line. The combination of applied references cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested these features.

Applicant continues to believe that the Office Action's reliance on Ogawa and Ueyoko in rejecting the pending claims is unreasonable because the pending claims recite a runflat tire and neither of Ogawa nor Ueyoko is directed to a runflat tire.

The totality of the rejection of claims 7-9 in the previous Office Action, of which claim 8 is independent and includes the specifically-recited features discussed above, the

Office Action asserts that "the turn-up end can be relatively low (Figure. 4) or relatively high (Figure. 5), which appear to satisfy the limitations of the respective claims." This conclusion requires an overly broad interpretation regarding the specifically recited claim features. In this regard, it must be noted that Figs. 4 and 5, of Ogawa, in their depiction of different turn-up areas, do not reference features that correspond to the combination of all of the features positively recited in claim 8. Specifically, there is no feature that corresponds to the folded end of the turn-up cord layer being laid in the specific configuration of claim 8 when no pressure is applied.

Despite any broad assertions of the Office Action regarding what Figs. 4 and 5 may be intended to encompass, the depicted folded ends of the turn-up cord layer are not laid in the tire's radial direction, outside of the line segment QB which connects an outermost point Q of said rim guard in the tire's width direction and an intersection of the inner surface of the tire and a line extending outwardly in the tire's radial direction from the outermost point Q at an angle of 60° in relation to a line parallel to the rim line.

This very specific limitation of independent claim 8 particularly addresses a shortfall in the prior art. The recited criteria of this feature can effectively inhibit both of a pulling out of carcass cords and disconnection of the beads of the tire from the rim when the tire is operated in a runflat state. These are serious problems specific to runflat tires that are not addressed by any of the applied references.

Applicant's disclosure at, for example, pages 11-14 discusses specific advantages to the recited feature. Further, Example 7 in Table 2 evidences, for example, that the subject matter of the pending claims results in significantly improved durability of a runflat tire. There is a more than 25% increase in durability according to the standard measures represented in, for example, Table 2. None of the applied references would have suggested such a combination of features in a runflat tire, so the combination of these references cannot

reasonably be considered to have suggested the specific features recited in claim 8. Further, it has not been properly shown that one of ordinary skill in the art would have, in any manner, predictably combined the applied references with any reasonable expectation of success. The Office Action only asserts that Ogawa generally teaches embodiments in which the carcass turn-up is low or high. The conclusion of the Office Action then is that "[i]t appears that a high turn-up arrangement satisfies the claimed invention and Applicant has not provided conclusive showing of unexpected results to establish a criticality for the claimed arrangement." As indicated above, there is no manner by which any specific parameters can be attributed to the depictions in, for example, Fig. 5 of Ogawa in a manner that could lead to a conclusion that the disclosed invention "appears" to satisfy the recited feature, because the depiction in Figure 5 cannot reasonably be expanded to support such a conclusion. Second, as discussed further above, Applicant has shown an unexpected result of a 25+% increase in durability based on the recited configuration to establish the criticality of the claimed arrangement. This critical durability parameter is not recognized by any of the applied references. The applied references are simply directed to differing configurations none of which can be expanded to allegedly have suggested the specific combination of features positively recited in, for example, independent claim 8.

For at least the above reasons, the combination of applied references cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combination of all of the features positively recited in independent claim 8. Further, claims 9 and 12-14 also would not have been suggested by the asserted combination of applied references for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly or indirectly on an allowable base claim, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

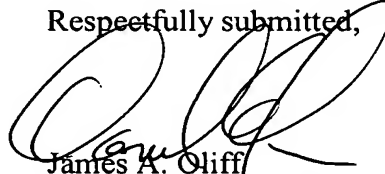
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8, 9 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa, Cottrell and Ueyoko are respectfully requested.

Added claims 15 and 16 include additional features which would not have been suggested by the asserted combination of applied references. Specifically with regard to claim 16, there is no suggestion in the combination of applied reference of the recited multiple layers in the specific configuration recited in that claim, in addition to all of the other features positively recited in independent claim 8.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 8, 9 and 12-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Daniel A. Tanner, III
Registration No. 54,734

Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time

JAO:DAT/cfr

Date: November 3, 2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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